

REMARKS

Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the present application.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-11 have been amended. Many of the claim amendments reflected in the present response correspond to those proposed Examiner's amendments that have not officially been made of record, which Applicants' representative discussed with the Examiner on the following dates: November 28, 2007; November 30; December 13, 2007; and January 2, 2008. Additionally, claim 8 has been amended to address the outstanding rejections. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments.

Rejection under 35 USC § 101

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without positively setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process.

Claim 8 has been amended herein to positively affirm the step for performing the claimed method. Specifically, claim 8 has been amended to recite "burying the part for casting according to claim 1 in casting sand." Thus, Applicants submit that the Examiner's concern has been fully addressed. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

Applicants have amended claim 8 as discussed above. Applicants believe that the present claim makes it clear that the casting part is buried in the casting sand. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to page 9, line 10 – page 10, line 4 for clarification of the present invention. As such, Applicants submit that claim 8 is definite, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 1, 3-7 and 9-11. In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that each of the pending claims is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Monique T. Cole, Reg. No. 60,154 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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